

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF PARROT.

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PSITTACUS RÜPPELLII.

Uniform dark bronze colour, with the lesser and under wing-coverts bright yellow; the feathers of the thighs orange-yellow.

Total length 9 inches 6 lines; bill, from gape, 10 lines; wings 5 inches 6 lines; tail 3 inches 3 lines; tarsi 6 lines.

The greater uniformity of colour at once distinguishes it from the allied species, *Psittacus Meyeri* and *P. rufiventris* of Dr. Rüppell.

The specimen from which this description is taken lived for upwards of twelve months in the Society's collection, and is believed to have been brought to this country from the river Nunez. I have named it in honour of my distinguished friend, whose labours have contributed so largely to our knowledge of African zoology.—*From the Proceedings of the Zoological Society.*

ON DECAY IN FRUIT.

Even the meanest subjects afford matter for admiration when attentively observed. Nothing at first sight could appear less interesting than the mode in which decay takes place in fruit; yet several distinct phænomena are exhibited, even in the same individual variety. In Apples, for instance, every housewife has observed that her fruit sometimes rapidly passes into a moist loathsome mass, while at other times it becomes a brown or black mummy. In the former case either some *Penicillium* or *Mucor* is almost invariably present; in the latter there is sometimes a fungus of a totally different type, though frequently there is no indication, at least externally, of any parasite.

An appearance, so very strange, presented itself a few days since in a basket of common Codlins, that a specimen was at once brought to us for examination. The whole of the outer surface had assumed a pale gray opaque tinge, as if it had been scalded, the substance meanwhile feeling extremely hard and glassy, reminding one forcibly of the potatoes described by Martius affected with the dry rot (*Trockenfäule*). Here and there beneath the cuticle beautiful radiating threads were observed, evidently indicating the presence of a fungus, but as they did not proceed to any further development, we could not ascertain of what species they were the mycelium. The gray tinge soon assumed, in portions of the surface, a deep brown tint, though the greater part still remained pale. A section exhibited three different strata, the central one apparently sound, but rapidly becoming reddish brown, and collapsing in a very different way from what would have been the case with healthy tissue; surrounding this was a thin layer of brown, evidently diseased, if not actually dead cells, and beyond this a superficial stratum of pale gray tissue. In none of these was there any trace of fungus threads except where the radiating flocci, above mentioned, were visible; the brown cells had lost their granular contents, and the walls of the gray cells were very irregular and collapsed, so as to present a confused appearance